

## ACUPUNCTURE PROTOCOL

The Medical Advisory Board recognizes that, for certain medical conditions, including postoperative pain or nausea and dental pain, acupuncture treatments may be efficacious in the cure, relief, or rehabilitation of the injured worker. Acupuncture treatments may also be efficacious for injured workers who have not responded to treatment options as specified in the protocol; however, the medical literature does not strongly support the use of acupuncture for most chronic musculoskeletal conditions.

In certain specific instances, acupuncture may be utilized on a trial basis when:

A) a trial of acupuncture is recommended, in writing, by the treating physician. The treating physician cannot also be the provider of the service, and the trial of acupuncture treatments will not exceed 6 visits,

and

B) there is clear and irrefutable documentation that the patient has not responded to reasonable medical, surgical, and chiropractic services, as specified in the appropriate protocols, and there is objective evidence of residual disability or incapacity,

and

C) any further authorization of acupuncture treatments will require independent, objective evidence of the efficacy of the treatment(s) and may, at the direction of the Workers' Compensation Court, require a concurring opinion provided by an impartial medical examiner.

### PROTOCOL HISTORY:

Passed: 7/27/93

Effective: 8/16/93

Revision Passed: 11/19/02

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